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BROKEN POTTERIES

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MAY HAS INVITED A MONSTER...

KEEP TRUMP OUT



Protest in Leeds last Saturday against Trump's racism

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

This growing movement can win

>>Pages 2,3,5,6&7

NHS

Hunt's racist clampdown will cost lives

PRIME MINISTER Theresa May and health minister Jeremy Hunt ramped up the assault on migrants and the NHS this week.

The Tories' new racist clampdown will force foreign nationals to pay upfront for "non-emergency care" from April.

Right wing newspapers seized on the story of Nigerian woman Priscilla—who had an unpaid bill of £330,000 for prematurely giving birth to quadruplets—to scaremonger about "health tourism".

Priscilla was taken ill on a flight home from the US. But she would still have received care under the new rules.

The real crisis in the NHS has been caused by billions of pounds in Tory cuts—and privatisation.

And some patients are already being forced to show their passports.

Last month it was revealed that 20 hospitals were implementing a pilot scheme being run by the Home Office and an NHS "efficiency" agency.

This is an attack on the principle of free health care. Health unions should support workers resisting this attack—and make the plans unworkable.

>>more on the NHS on page 8



Jeremy Hunt wants to check passports



VOICES FROM THE STREET

'Our message is, stop using Muslims as scapegoats'

Salia from Friends of Al Aqsa

'The refugee issue is everyone's issue. They didn't choose for their country to be destroyed'

Sayhat from Tajikistan

'My family come from one of the banned states—Iran. People need to unite against oppression'

First-time protester Farrah

'I'm proud that people have protested all around the world against Trump'

Lucy from the US, who is studying in Wales

'I work in a school and a lot of the kids are Muslim. I couldn't look them in the eye on Monday if I didn't come'

First-time protester Matthew from east London



Tens of thousands say no to Trump's racism

by TOMÁS TENGELY-EVANS

ANGER AT Donald Trump's assault on Muslims, migrants, women and others burst onto the streets of Britain last Saturday.

Some 40,000 people marched through London—and thousands more joined protests in other towns and cities.

The protests followed large mobilisations after Trump's inauguration last month, but this rising movement is still pulling in new people.

Maria, one of many first-time protesters in London, said, "I came to a demonstration for the first time because of racism."

"It feels like we're going back to the dark ages, with all that we've won being undone."

"But if we all stand together, we can change things."

May

Protesters weren't just angry at Trump's bigotry—they were furious about Theresa May's support for him.

Hannah, a school student and first-time protester, said, "I'm here because I don't want this for my generation."

There's a May just as bad as Trump, she's just less obvious about it."

The same was true on the 3,000-strong demonstration



PROTESTERS TAKE on Trump in Edinburgh

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

in Manchester. Janet, a student from Wigan, near Manchester, said, "If we don't say or do anything history has a way of repeating itself."

"Eleven years ago my family came to England as refugees from South Sudan. If England hadn't let us in I don't know what would have happened."

A large number of Muslims turned out for the London demonstration, including a whole weekend Arabic school from Waltham Forest in north east London.

Sayed, one of the adults, said, "We wanted to teach them what they could do to stop this racist agenda."

"It's important they know that we as Muslims, Jews, Christians and

socialists are united against Trump." There was a big turnout from Yemenis in Sheffield, where around 1,500 people demonstrated.

Young Asian women led chants of, "From Palestine to Mexico—racist walls have got to go."

Saturday showed the potential to resist racism—it must be built on.

As Intesham, a Labour and Friends of Al Aqsa member, said, "If everyone goes back and talks to ten people about coming on the next one, next time we'll be ten times bigger, then a hundred times."

Chants of, "Dump Trump" also rang through Leeds and Birmingham as some 500 people marched in both cities.

At least 1,000 people marched to the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh. Compared to previous demonstrations against Trump, there was a bigger turnout from the trade unions. Unison, UCU and NUT branches brought banners to the London march.

Anyone who says they are against racism has to be there," said Wilf Sullivan, the TUC's race equality officer.

"It's crucial we get everyone we can."

Sullivan was speaking at the Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) trade union conference in London last Saturday. Over 250 activists from across Britain took part after the anti-Trump march.

The union tradition of international solidarity could help resist the right.

"While they are building borders and walls we will stand up for unity for all," she said.

In the London Evening Standard newspaper last week Jones said he'd "find it hard to vote for Corbyn" in a new leadership election.

Those on the left should unite against the right, not fight each other.

For last October's statement about the SWP and SUTR go to bit.ly/2IfmhJv

On other pages...

Protests across the US resist Donald Trump >> Pages 6&7

The left should unite, not fight each other

After Saturday's demonstration we need to build further unity in action.

That doesn't mean an end to debate or the creation of just one group. It means campaigns against Trump must work together.

Saturday's protest was organised by Stand Up To Racism (SUTR), the Stop the War Coalition, the Muslim Association of Britain, Muslim Engagement and Development, the Muslim Council of Britain, CND, Friends of Al-Aqsa, the People's Assembly Against Austerity and Help Refugees Worldwide.

But journalist and author Owen Jones, having previously attacked Stop the War, said he wouldn't join it.

He claimed SUTR is a "front" for the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), and that the SWP is guilty of actions that places it

beyond participation in the movement.

The SWP is proud to build SUTR.

But SUTR is not controlled by the SWP. Its president is Diana Abbott MP. Its co-chairs are CWU union leader Dave Ward and Talha Ahmad of the Muslim Council of Britain.

Jones' false claims about the SWP are a rehash of ones he made last October in an attempt to stop Labour

leader Jeremy Corbyn speaking at the SUTR conference. Corbyn spoke anyway.

The SWP is proud to build SUTR.

In the London Evening Standard newspaper last week Jones said he'd "find it hard to vote for Corbyn" in a new leadership election.

Those on the left should unite against the right, not fight each other.

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IN TOWNS AND CITIES ACROSS BRITAIN groups taking on Trump and racism are popping up, often organised by people new to politics.

Around 300 people joined a protest organised by the Flock of Needles group in Otley, near Leeds, last Friday night.

Victoria Smith, who is part of the local group, explained how it started around the refugee crisis. "We wanted to do something that would help people feel empathy towards refugees," she told Socialist Worker.

The group sewed little birds,

each with individual messages, to send to children in refugee camps.

"We've just had pictures back from the camp and people could recognise the birds they'd made, which really helped people connect," she said.

Out of this came Otley Welcome. Victoria said, "This is the first thing I've organised. We saw the protests and

said, we can organise something and it's just snowballed from there."

"Stand Up To Racism Leeds was really helpful," Victoria explained how

organising a demonstration gave people confidence to put forward anti-racist arguments.

"People who are against Trump and racism in Otley needed to feel empowered," she said.

"Otley is a very white town and can be quite polarised on opinions around immigration. We have a history of welcoming in Otley but the erosion of the working class has really hit—fear of the other, scapegoating and Islamophobia are visible."

"It's important to get out onto the streets—we are the majority."



Part of the 40,000-strong march against Donald Trump in London last Saturday

TUC calls for workers to join protest on 18 March

by DAVE SEWELL

A TUC official has called for "one of the biggest turnouts of trade unionists on an anti-racism demonstration there's ever been" on Saturday 18 March.

"Anyone who says they are against racism has to be there," said Wilf Sullivan, the TUC's race equality officer.

"It's crucial we get everyone we can."

Sullivan was speaking at the Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) trade union conference in London last Saturday. Over 250 activists from across Britain took part after the anti-Trump march.

The union tradition of international solidarity could help resist the right.

"While they are building borders and walls we will stand up for unity for all," she said.

Susan Matthews, chair of the Unite union's BME workers committee, said the trade

union tradition of international solidarity could help resist the right.

"Four of the Unison union's 12 regions have now affiliated to SUTR."

Janet Maiden, a nurse and member of Unison's service group executive vowed to oppose

new measures against "health tourism".

"We're health workers, not border guards," she said. "We're saying no to passport checks and we're not going to be part of it."

She added, "They want to charge migrants for healthcare because they want to start charging all of us."

Sullivan agreed, accusing the Tories of passing legislation "that institutionalises divide and rule". He said, "It's creating an atmosphere of fear and division. We as workers are being co-opted into a security state. We have to recognise that and fight back."

Refugees and Migrants Welcome—Stand Up To Racism, Islamophobia & antisemitism. Protest Saturday 18 March in London, Glasgow and Cardiff. Go to standuptoracism.org.uk

WHERE NEXT?

'This is only the beginning of a mass movement'

ORGANISERS OF Saturday's protest plan to shut down London if Trump comes to Britain on an official visit.

Weyman Bennett from Stand Up To Racism told the London rally, "If Donald Trump comes to this country we're going to kick his arse. Black and white, gay and straight, women and men, we're going to kick his arse."

Lindsey German from Stop the War said, "This is only the beginning. If Theresa May dares to go ahead with the state visit we will bring London to a standstill."

"This is the beginning of a mass movement against Trump's presidency and Theresa May's rotten politics."

Azad Ali from Muslim Engagement and Development (Mend) said, "We have to be united—this is not a time for petty squabbles. Our collective action makes a difference. We have a long battle ahead."

"When I was a young boy, I couldn't go to the sweet shop because there were fascists in the streets. You know who stood up? You all stood up."

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn sent a video message. He said, "I support the demand of millions of people in Britain who say Donald Trump is not welcome."

"Trump's invite should be withdrawn."

Corbyn should join future demonstrations against Trump and be part of this rising movement against the right and racism.

WHERE NEXT?

Saturday 18 February

Stand Up To Trump national organising summit. Called by Stop the War Coalition, Stand Up To Racism, The People's Assembly, Muslim Association of Britain, Unite and CWU unions. bit.ly/2kER0CX

Monday 20 February

Stand Up To Trump. Lobby as MPs discuss the petition against Trump's state visit. bit.ly/2lftTl7

Saturday 18 March

National demonstrations in London, Glasgow and Cardiff called by Stand Up To Racism on UN anti-racism day. bit.ly/2laQUNi

Labour MPs turn Tories' Brexit crisis into a bid to oust Corbyn

by NICK CLARK

BACK STORY

A CRISIS in the Labour Party over the European Union (EU) has led to renewed speculation that left wing leader Jeremy Corbyn could resign or be challenged—yet again.

Corbyn has rightly said Labour will not try to block Brexit—Britain's exit from the EU. Working class people in many Labour seats voted Leave as part of a revolt against the establishment.

But he is facing rebellions by both right and left wing Labour MPs who want to block Brexit.

Corbyn will be under huge pressure to resign if Labour loses either of the two by-elections it faces in Stoke-on-Trent Central and Copeland on 23 February.

Now rumours are flying that some MPs could be moving to replace Corbyn including Clive Lewis and Rebecca Long-Bailey from Labour's "soft left".

Meanwhile the Labour right is said to be preparing a challenge from Labour's shadow "Brexit minister" Keir Starmer.

Split

The EU referendum split the Tory party down the middle, but these manoeuvres have turned what should have been their crisis into one for Labour.

The Labour right are themselves divided on whether to block Brexit (see right). But they are all desperate to keep Britain in the European single market, which restricts workers' rights and prevents nationalisation of industries such as rail.

They are openly pushing to end EU freedom of movement, with more restrictive immigration controls.

Yet many of Labour's members and supporters want to stay in the EU because they associate leaving with attacks on migrants and workers' rights.

Some 7,000 Labour Party members are reported to have quit after Corbyn told Labour MPs to vote for the bill to begin Brexit in parliament last week. And a number of left and

The Tory government has put a bill before parliament to trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty

- This would formally begin the process of Brexit—leaving the EU
- Labour told its MPs to vote for the bill on its first reading rather than defy the referendum result
- Yet many MPs rebelled, with their numbers expected to grow for the second reading this week
- These include some MPs who have called for scrapping the "free movement" of EU migrants

SHADOW BUSINESS secretary Clive Lewis (left) and shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry

For Europe but not for Europeans—rebels want to attack migrants

THE LABOUR right's

amendments to the Brexit bill show they are united in attacking EU migrants—whether they are for blocking the bill or supporting it.

Labour Party MPs have submitted several amendments to the bill, which were set to be debated on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

A number of them are moved by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, shadow "Brexit minister" Keir Starmer and others.

They are mostly about protecting workers' rights and the status of EU nationals already living in Britain. These are welcome.

But many more amendments submitted by right wing Labour MPs are bureaucratic attempts to stop Britain from leaving the EU's most right wing institutions.

These MPs want to stay in the EU's militaristic Common Foreign and Security Policy and Euratom, which promotes nuclear energy.

These include calls for a second referendum at the end of

Stephen Kinnock poses with the steel works in his constituency where jobs were lost while he attacked migrants

negotiations. They would make it difficult or impossible to leave bodies such as the single market or Euratom by making them "exceptions".

They also demand regular reports on negotiations regarding each individual institution. And they demand that the government should get the consent of each of the devolved governments, as well

as the government of Gibraltar, before leaving.

Many of those amendments are moved by MPs who rebelled against Corbyn to vote against the bill on Wednesday of last week.

But tellingly some of those same MPs have put their name to an amendment that demands the right to restrict EU free movement while keeping access to the single market.

They are united on this with Labour MPs who voted for the bill such as Stephen Kinnock, who has loudly called for more border controls.

This shows that the main dividing line in Labour is not between those who want to leave or remain in the EU. And it shows that many of those who voted against the bill are not on the side of anti-racists in Labour who want to defend migrants.

The real division in Labour is between those who want to defend and extend workers' and migrants' rights and those who want to attack them.

"soft left" Labour MPs were also predicted to defy Corbyn in a vote in parliament which was set to take place on Wednesday of this week.

Shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry said last Sunday that Labour would not "frustrate Brexit".

Yet when asked about the consequences of rebelling, Corbyn described himself as "very lenient".

This could leave his position open to challenges from MPs such as Lewis, who has said he will vote against the bill if Labour's amendments are not accepted.

It comes after 47 Labour MPs—from the right—rebelled against Corbyn at the bill's second reading last Wednesday.

Corbyn has tried to hold his party together by appealing to both the right and left. This muddle lets the Tories—who should also be divided over Brexit—off the hook.

Corbyn could unite those with a vision for a socialist, anti-racist Brexit—whether they are for or against leaving the EU.

They are openly pushing to end EU freedom of movement, with more restrictive immigration controls.

Yet many of Labour's members and supporters want to stay in the EU because they associate leaving with attacks on migrants and workers' rights.

Some 7,000 Labour Party members are reported to have quit after Corbyn told Labour MPs to vote for the bill to begin Brexit in parliament last week. And a number of left and

On other pages...

Broken Potties? Why Labour's in trouble in Stoke >>Page 10&11

Backing the bosses' EU won't win independence

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

ONE SENIOR Tory minister last week told Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon to "forget it" when it came to demanding a second independence referendum.

The Supreme Court's statement of the obvious last month that devolved governments do not have much say over Brexit was a blow to Sturgeon.

And it has intensified speculation about a new referendum.

Britain exiting the European Union (EU) wasn't part of the Better Together arguments for a vote against Scottish independence in 2014.

And the unionists' argument that breaking from Britain was the route to an uncertain future is just as true with Britain breaking with the EU.

Sturgeon and her party, the Scottish National Party (SNP), argued that a material change in circumstances, such as

Brexit, would justify a second referendum.

Socialist Worker supports the call for another referendum and a vote for independence.

We want to see the break up of the British state and its role as junior partner to US imperialism weakened—even more so in the era of Donald Trump.

And if the SNP weds the campaign for independence to Scotland's membership of the EU it would be disastrous.

Cheerleading for the EU's single market, a neoliberal tool of the bosses, will only narrow down the support for independence.

Socialist Worker



PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

May's new pal not welcome

ISRAELI prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu was greeted with protests as he visited London on Monday.

Up to 300 people joined a Palestine Solidarity Campaign protest outside Downing Street as Netanyahu held talks with Theresa May on Tuesday. She told Socialist Worker, "The way Theresa May has responded to Trump and Netanyahu is shameful."

Israel's settlements. The Israeli state announced plans to build 6,000 settler homes inside illegal settlements in the Palestinian West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Netanyahu was also set to visit US president Donald Trump this week.

Given this support, the Israeli state retroactively

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

TURN ANTI-TRUMP REVOLT INTO MOVEMENT TO WIN

THERESA MAY is in trouble over her decision to invite US president Donald Trump to Britain. Even the speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, lambasted Trump this week.

Much more significant are the tens of thousands of people who have protested on the streets across Britain. The revolt shows the potential to build a mass anti-racist movement. Now there are key dates that every anti-racist must mobilise for.

On Saturday 18 February Stand Up To Racism (SUTR), Stop the War, the Unite and CWU unions, and others have called a national organising summit against Trump and his visit. It's a key chance to come together, plan actions and unify the resistance.

On Monday 20 February at 4.30pm MPs will debate two petitions on whether Trump should be allowed to visit Britain. This can become a day of rage against Trump and racism.

Several groups have called action against Trump. The One Day Without Us group will take action in support of migrants.

The NUS international students and black students campaigns are

"calling on all students to join a day of walkouts". The action will "show we stand with all migrants against Trump's toxic politics and the complicity of Theresa May and the British government".

NUS president Malia Bouattia backed the call. It's a green light for a mass day of action by students.

On Saturday 18 March national anti-racist demonstrations will take place in London, Glasgow and Cardiff. The anger at Trump can feed into these protests. They must be a show of strength against the sickening racism of our rulers.

The Trump protests have been full of first-time marchers. And for every protester, hundreds if not thousands more will oppose

Put the fight for a radically different world at heart of the movement

Trump. People new to political activity are looking to get involved. There must be local organisation that can reach them.

There's also an open door to build SUTR within unions and workplaces. The TUC race equality officer called on workers to make 18 March the biggest mobilisation of trade unionists against racism Britain's ever seen.

Where SUTR activists have held stalls or leafleted at work, it always finds an audience. The Tories will be worried about the protests. But they fear walkouts, strikes and occupations more. These things can shut parts of their system down and block bosses' profits.

The rage against Trump points to a wider discontent. Many want to end the Islamophobia and scapegoating of migrants in Britain. Others are fed up with world rulers dismissing climate change. Many want to stop the attacks on women's rights coming from the top. And others want to challenge the power of the 1 percent.

A mass anti-racist movement can deepen the crisis at the top and push back racism. Socialists must prioritise building it—and put the fight for a radically different kind of world at its heart.

SYRIA—DROWNED IN BLOOD

NO ONE should doubt the brutality of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad's regime.

A report released by human rights charity Amnesty International this week shows why.

Western leaders say that their bombing raids or no-fly zones could have saved people in Syria.

They are liars and hypocrites. Western states, such as the US and Britain, have their own murderous intentions in the Middle East. They pick and choose which brutal regimes to support.

The horrors described in the report underline the ruthlessness of Assad's counter-revolution.

Only this week Tory prime minister Theresa May welcomed

Israeli mass murderer Binyamin Netanyahu to Downing Street.

Britain and the US enjoy close relationships with Saudi Arabia—currently bombing civilians in Yemen—and Egyptian president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who crushed the Egyptian revolution.

Ongoing carnage in the Iraqi city of Mosul shows what Western intervention really means.

The defeat of the revolution at the hands of Assad is unbearable to watch—but the West was never its saviour.

STAND UP TO RACISM NATIONAL DEMOS

- Migrants and refugees welcome
- Stand up to racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism

SATURDAY 18 MARCH
London, Glasgow, Cardiff



February issue out now £3

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ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS

Greed collides with fear for top bosses

IT'S A cliche that markets are driven by fear and greed. The same is true of the attitude of big business in the US towards Donald Trump.

Some of this fear is short term and specific. Corporate CEOs dread a presidential tweet denouncing a move to offshore US jobs to somewhere cheaper. But the more fundamental worries are long term.

As the historians Charlie Laderman and Brendan Simms show in a new book, since the 1980s Trump has developed a consistent worldview. It is highly critical of the dominant US global strategy since 1945 of building and maintaining a liberal capitalist international order.

Trump wants to replace this with the protectionism he lauded in his inaugural address.

And he's started to act on this—withdrawing from the Trans Pacific Partnership, demanding the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and targeting some of the US's leading trade partners.

It's not just China and Mexico that are in Trump's sights. Last week Peter Navarro, the head of his National Trade Council, denounced Germany. He said it "continues to exploit other countries in the European Union as well as the US with an 'implicit Deutsche Mark' [ie the euro] that is grossly undervalued."

Navarro wants to dismantle the cross-border supply chains through which modern manufacturing production is organised.

"It does the American economy no long term good to only keep the big box factories where we are now assembling 'American' products that are composed primarily of foreign components," he said. "We need to manufacture those components in a robust domestic supply chain that will spur job and wage growth."

This is a pretty fundamental threat to US transnational corporations, which have used these supply chains to cut costs and boost profits. But so far their response has been timid. The Financial Times newspaper reported that "some business leaders seem intoxicated at the prospect of breaking bread with the most powerful man on earth."

Deliver

Here is where greed comes in. The report continued, "It would be hard to find a representative of corporate America whose blood does not run faster at the notion of tax reform, regulatory relief and a recovery in economic confidence—all things the president has repeatedly promised to deliver."

Indeed, after campaigning against Wall Street, Trump has been stuffing his administration with its representatives. And he's giving them more of what they want. One example is an executive order to review the Dodd-Frank Act which imposed more regulation on the financial markets after the 2008 crash.

Eagerness for short term bucks hasn't stopped some top CEOs, such as Ford and Goldman Sachs, from criticising the Muslim ban. Leading tech companies—Airbnb, Uber, Twitter, Google, Facebook, Apple and Microsoft—reliant on skilled workers from around the world, are backing the court case that led to suspending the ban.

A senior consultant told Politico magazine's Morning Money blog, "The corporate world prefers stability and order and what worries them are signs of instability on the horizon. A lot of these policies and executive actions will lead to some level of chaos."

"People are willing to give the White House some time to demonstrate that they understand the restraints of the system while also protecting their immediate interests."

The capitalist class is inherently fragmented. They act like what Karl Marx called "hostile brothers", each trying to grab for themselves the biggest share of the profits they extract from workers.

This focus on individual and often conflicting private interests makes it hard for the bosses to arrive at a unified political position. This is where the state comes in as the set of institutions that develops a general view of the ruling class interests overall and imposes it on society.

But the high command in Washington is now in the hands of an adventurer, along with advisers such as Steve Bannon, who says he wants to "destroy all of today's establishment." Expect a bumpy ride for US capital, and for the rest of us.



Revolt to stop Donald Trump spreads into the workplace

by ALISTAIR FARROW

PROTESTS OVER new US president Donald Trump's racist policies continue into their third week.

This movement is spreading rather than petering out, and activists are debating what to do next.

There are moves to shift the movement on the streets into the workplace.

Moves already made by workers to strike against Trump have been met with large amounts of support.

And these militant actions, such as the strike by taxi drivers at JFK airport, are quickly inspiring other workers.

Some 1,000 mostly Yemeni shopkeepers shut down their "bodegas" for eight hours in New York on Saturday of last week.

Yemen is one of seven countries singled out by Trump's "Muslim Ban" (see right).

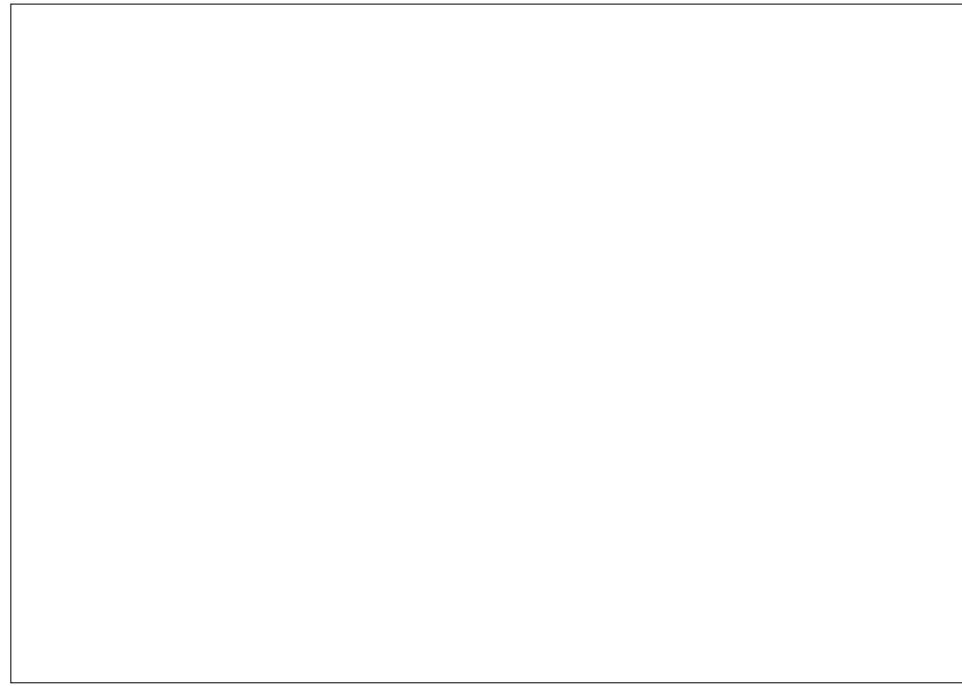
Some 2,000 workers at Google walked out internationally last Monday.

Over 1,000 workers walked out of technology firm Comcast's Philadelphia offices on Thursday of last week, holding a rally outside before marching through the town.

Employers

Comcast's Chief Technical Officer addressed the rally and workers were given paid time off work to join the protest. The protests and walkouts at Comcast and Google were driven by workers' anger at Trump but were also supported by employers.

Activists are organising a nationwide "strike" on Friday 17 February. More



YEMENI BODEGA strikers rally in a protest against Trump (above and left)

motion from the American Federation of Teachers and Unite here, but not much motion from the Service Employees International Union yet."

Transformative

These unions have millions of members and could have a transformative effect on the movement if they entered the fray. Many individual members already have.

"Some local branches may engage," said Todd.

"My hope is that the real work is done after 17 February that can help us to win broader labour movement support. The possible date for the next strikes is May Day."

If trade unions enter the fight against Trump on a

national scale it could be a decisive shift in the fight against his racism and bigotry.

But their strategy of "wait and see" needs to change.

In the weeks since his inauguration, some union leaderships have thrown their weight behind Trump.

The United Steelworkers supported his protectionist economic policies.

Trump is offering kickbacks to bosses and attacking workers. Unions need to be part of the political movement against him and militant strikes by workers are essential.

Got a story?
Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk



KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Gina Haspel
Deputy director of the CIA appointed by Trump

- Ran a notorious "black site" in Thailand that used brutal torture methods

- Oversaw the torture of two Al Qaida suspects and ordered the destruction of video evidence



Protesters in Philadelphia

US federal court rejects Trump's racist travel ban

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's ban on refugees and Muslims was deemed illegal at the beginning of this week. But the thuggish bully immediately hit back.

The legal battles continued as Socialist Worker went to press—and could eventually reach the Supreme Court.

Trump's executive order stopped citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries—Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen—from entering the US for 90 days. It also halts all refugee applications for 120 days and anyone from Syria indefinitely.

Last Friday Seattle-based judge James Robart blocked the ban but his ruling was ignored by border guards at two airports.

Trump tore into Robart tweeting, "The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, it is ridiculous and will be overturned!"

He added, "Bad people are very happy! Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril."

Appeals

White House lawyers tried to have the ruling lifted by a higher court which hears appeals from Seattle. But this court ("The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit") rebuffed Trump.

Trump lawyers had argued that he can essentially do what he likes. They argued that a judge's "second-guessing" was not allowed in any matters of "foreign affairs, national security, and immigration".

But they lost. All the legal moves that are taking place are not divorced from the protests.

Judges and the legal system have their own interests. But they cannot ignore the wider issues. They risk becoming reviled by millions if they do.

The more the protests continue, the more the legal cases are likely to obstruct Trump.

Meanwhile, Trump continues to hurl grenades into the US establishment.

The cover of the bosses' magazine The Economist this week featured a cartoon of Trump hurling a petrol bomb. Inside it said "As Trump rages against the world America's allies are worried—rightly so."

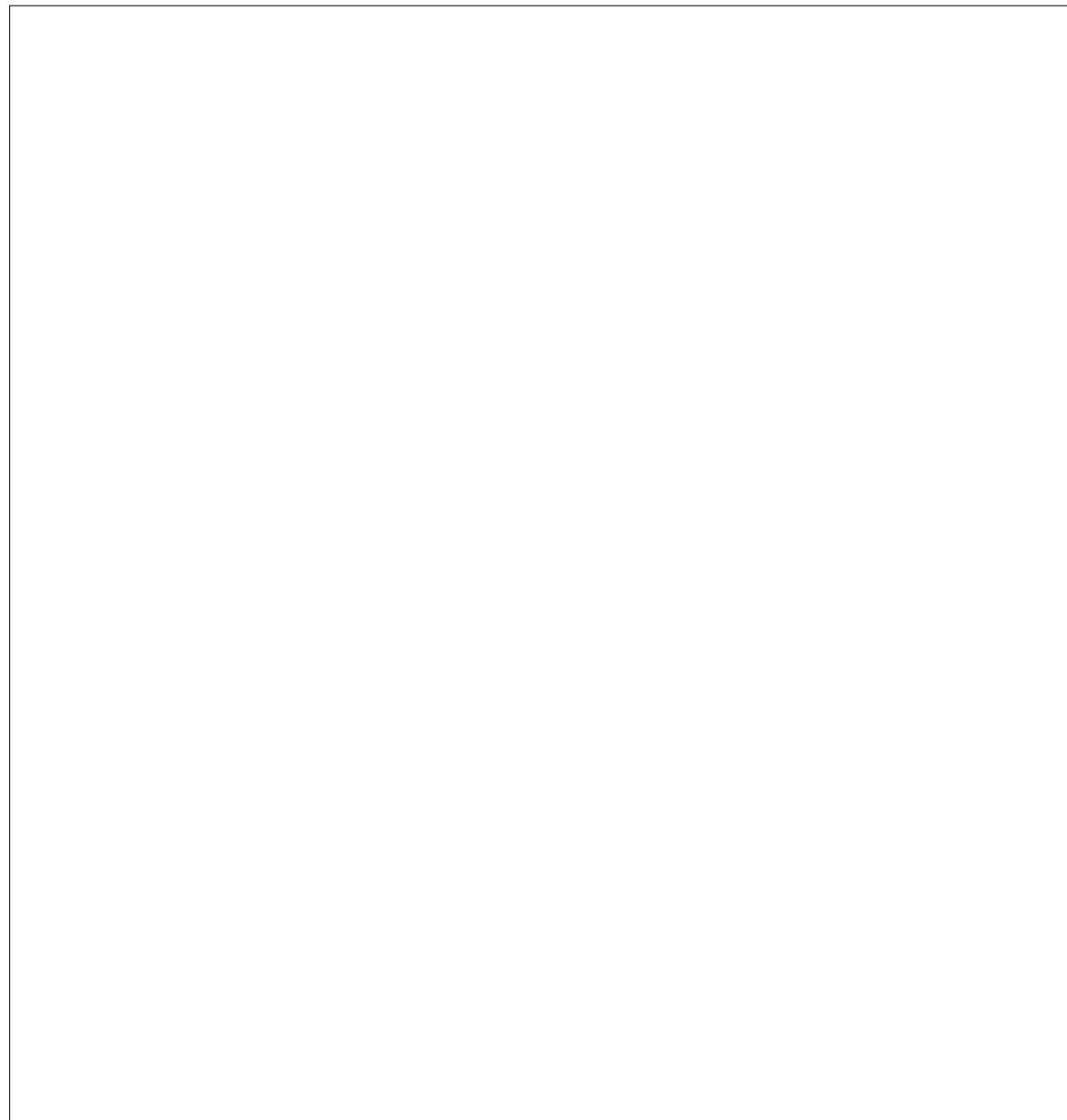
When asked about Russian leader Vladimir Putin Trump said, "There are a lot of killers. We've got a lot of killers."

"What, do you think our country's so innocent?"

He then gave the 2003 invasion of Iraq as an example.

This doesn't mean Trump is rejecting US imperialism.

This week US defence secretary James "Mad Dog" Mattis waded into the highly-charged rivalries in



PROTESTERS IN New York demonstrating against the Muslim ban

the South China Sea where at least seven states vie for territory.

Mattis backed Japan to the hilt over disputed islets in the East China Sea.

Trump is at war with millions at home, and he threatens war abroad.

Democrats under pressure

LEADING FIGURES in the Democratic Party have tried to rush to the head of the movement against Trump in the US.

But many activists are angry that the Democrats aren't providing sufficient opposition.

Last week thousands of people gathered outside the luxury apartment building where top Democrat Senator Chuck Schumer lives.

Protesters chanted "Chuck! Chuck! Don't sell us out! We need a fighter to knock Trump out!"

They held placards saying, "Resist Trump" and "Show Some Spine Schumer" — while also chanting "Shut

it down, shut it down, New York is an immigrant town."

Brad Wolchansky, who was carrying a cardboard cut-out of a giant eye, told the New York Post, "Senator Schumer needs to know we're watching him. We need him to be bold. We need him to stand up to Trump and oppose his cabinet picks."

More could come of the Trump protests than just a stronger movement on the streets.

They can fuel a debate about what sort of political movement is needed that could go beyond the Democrats, who have repeatedly failed working class people.

US airstrike deaths go unrecorded

AN INVESTIGATION by US armed forces magazine Military Times has suggested that all the claims made about the number of bombing raids are incomplete. Many airstrikes went unrecorded.

In particular it said US forces kill far more people than previously reported and that the figures may have been incomplete since the beginning of the "war on terror" in 2001.

For example, figures are not collected from raids by AH-64 Apache attack helicopters.

US armed forces carried out 456 bombing raids in Afghanistan in 2016 which were never recorded.

Recorded coalition airstrikes in Afghanistan came to 615,

How many has the US killed?

bringing the total to 1,071.

That means that 42 percent of total airstrikes in Afghanistan went unreported.

There were 11,825 recorded coalition airstrikes in Iraq and Syria in 2016. If the same ratio is true in these countries, over 20,000 total airstrikes could have been carried out in them in 2016.

That means hundreds of thousands of attacks could have gone unrecorded—and thousands of deaths.

The magazine—which is wholly committed to supporting the US forces—says that if these figures are true "it would fundamentally undermine confidence in much of what the Pentagon has disclosed about its prosecution of these wars, prompt critics to call into question whether the military sought to mislead the American public, and cast doubt on the competency with which other vital data collection is being performed and publicised.

Those other key metrics include American combat casualties, taxpayer expense and the military's overall progress in degrading enemy capabilities."

On other pages...
Protests across Britain against Trump and May >>Page 2

BA cabin crew chart course to victory with six days of strikes

Dave Sewell spoke to British Airways workers about how they are escalating their campaign to win a high-flying, high-stakes dispute

BRITISH AIRWAYS cabin crew began a week of strikes against poverty pay last Sunday.

Speaking to Socialist Worker at the picket line at London Heathrow airport, Unite union rep Gareth Theobald said, "The airport is empty. Someone just came and told us the crew bus is empty, the area where crew would normally be is empty."

"BA says the strike has no effect, but there's clearly disruption and they are having to charter planes from other airlines to cover their routes."

The dispute involves around 3,000 Unite members in BA's "mixed fleet" section, set up in 2010 on much lower pay than existing crew.

The wages workers are promised when they start include benefits and bonuses many rarely see—and that bosses have now docked further to punish them for striking.

Strikers' staff travel discount was cut for 12 months last week. But Gareth said these tactics were making workers "more defiant" as the dispute goes on.

"The company keeps coming back with threats, and people are seeing through it as they see the effect we are having."



Charlie Bacon PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

BACK STORY

British Airways introduced the "mixed fleet" pay scale after a bitter dispute in 2010

- People employed on "mixed fleet" were given worse pay and conditions than other workers
- Workers have consistently voted for strikes when given the opportunity
- The Unite union leadership has failed to deliver the action needed to win the dispute

Workers struck for five days in two walkouts last month. Now they are striking for six days in one week—every day except Wednesday.

Charlie Bacon told Socialist Worker she was "anxious and excited at the same time" about the escalation.

Inspiring

"Striking is exhausting, but it's also inspiring," she said. "The longer we get on the more support we get as people become aware of what we're fighting for. I even saw a website where BA 'Gold Card' travellers were saying it's disgusting the way BA treats us."

The longer walkout will also test the figures for turnout, Charlie explained.

Bosses claim that 70 percent of workers are not striking. But this includes those whose irregular work rosters mean they aren't working on strike days—many of whom still turn out to picket.

"Going out for longer means more people can join the action, and then we'll see the real figure," she said. "We're a small fleet but going out will bring home to BA how much it needs us."



On other pages...

Stoke-on-Trent by-election isn't all about immigration>>Pages 10&11

- DEFEND OUR NHS
- NO CUTS ● NO CLOSURES
- NO PRIVATISATION

Assemble 12 noon, Tavistock Square, London WC1 (nearest tubes Russell Square and Euston) and join the march on parliament

#OUR NHS

National Demonstration
Saturday 4 March



STRIKERS DEFIANT on the picket line against bosses' poverty pay cuts at BA

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

NHS

Newcastle joins in the fight to stop the spread of the STPs and to save the NHS

CHANTS OF "Save our NHS" rang through Newcastle city centre as over 1,000 people joined a march against the Tories' assault on the health service last Saturday.

It was organised by Keep Our NHS Public North East against the local Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

John Whalley from the local health campaign said, "What will happen with this draft plan will be the closure of some departments, cuts to some services and people will need to travel further for treatments."

Dividing England into 44 "footprints", the STPs would axe hundreds of hospital departments and services with the aim of slashing £22 billion by 2020.

The Northumberland, Tyne, Wear and North Durham draft STP has not detailed specific

attacks, but it is based on slashing £641 million from the local budget. But opposition is growing, with local groups springing up to organise against them.

A growing number of local, mainly Labour-controlled, councils are refusing to sign off on their local STPs. This is a major roadblock to the Tories pushing through their plans successfully. Health campaigners should pressure their own councils to do the same.

Opposition

Some Labour politicians are also getting behind the opposition.

Emma Lewell-Buck, Labour MP for South Shields, had urged people to join the march in Newcastle.

"Our NHS is in crisis and the government's answer is to force local areas to come up with plans

predicated on massive cuts," she said. "This is placing hospitals—including South Tyneside Hospital—right across England under threat.

"It is a deliberate attempt by the Tories to dismantle the NHS."

The demonstration shows the possibility of building broad-based opposition that can push back the Tories' assault.

The national demonstration in defence of the NHS in London on 4 March is an opportunity to bring these sorts of fights together.

It has been called by Health Campaigns Together and is backed by the People's Assembly and the Unison and Unite unions.

Labour's shadow chancellor John McDonnell will also speak.

The whole Labour Party and other union leaders should support and practically build the demonstration.

Khan he kick it? No

LONDON MAYOR Sadiq Khan said he would make his 2016 election campaign a "referendum on housing".

Less than a year later, there are already signs that he is retreating from some of his manifesto commitments and adopting policies that are worryingly close to those he claims to challenge.

Criticisms of Khan's emerging housing policies arose almost as soon as he was elected.

His original aspiration to make 50 percent of new homes "affordable" has already been dropped to 35 percent.

Promises to protect residents and social rented homes have been diluted. Meanwhile, Khan has been virtually silent on the toxic Housing and Planning Act.

A closer look at Khan's policies give further cause for concern. He has a budget of over £3 billion to deliver 90,000 new "affordable" homes by 2021.

But 65 percent of these will be "home ownership products" targeted at people with an income well above the London median of £30,000.

Nowhere in Khan's blizzard of new policies is there any commitment to build and invest in council housing.

He is preparing the ground for a continuation of the kind of social cleansing of working class neighbourhoods that has characterised the last 20 years.

Sadiq Khan needs to fulfil his promise to help all private renters, not just a few and get involved in the campaign to Axe the Housing and Planning Act.

Glyn Robbins
East London

Take mental health oppression seriously

THE LEFT has a poor record on mental health. It starts and ends with campaigns against cuts.

Mental health oppression goes much wider—mental health sufferers are dismissed as "mad" and misunderstood.

For example, I have a mental health disability, but I am also a Marxist with sound political ideas in my head. It's about how you separate the two.

The constant linking of



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

Check your humility

THE UPSURGE in xenophobia and racism we have experienced since the referendum was entirely predictable, yet Socialist Worker was an enthusiastic supporter of Brexit.

It is all very well to criticise Jeremy Corbyn for backsliding on free movement. But if the referendum had not gone the way you wanted he would not have had to deal with the issue.

As reader Mick Hawker points out (Letters, 25 January), perhaps a little humility might be in order.

Derrick Hibbett
East London

NHS protests were big too

THERE ARE a huge number of us protesting continually about NHS cuts—it just doesn't get the media coverage.

Also, there are lots of separate protests on different days spread out all over the county, ongoing, week in, week out, for years.

If you add together the attendance figures for all the NHS demos over the past few years it would vastly outnumber the Trump demos because the NHS protests are consistent and ongoing.

Janet Gifford
on Facebook

Movement can trump Trump

BUILDING A wall, halting immigration.

To me, it's reminiscent of what Hitler was up to in Nazi Germany all those years ago. I was suspicious about Trump early last year when he was running for president.

I thought to myself then, if he gets in to power there will be some shit going on in the US and it's turned up trumps.

It's only been two weeks that he has been in power and he's had his first court case and lost.

Mike Briggs
Manchester

Labour should look outwards

LABOUR DON'T have a chance of winning the next election with this infighting still happening.

Chris Austin
on Facebook

Build the fight against racism here

IT'S FANTASTIC to see the mass movement being galvanised against Trump. However, we must not forget the enemy at home.

In the week that MPs have voted to trigger Article 50, the Tory prime minister has found time to make it increasingly clear that the Tories favour a "hard Brexit". Socialists must make



Manchester in solidarity with Muslims

PICTURE: MARK KRANTZ

campaigning to defend freedom of movement across Europe a top priority.

We also need to resist the Islamophobic Prevent policy and continue to campaign for refugees to

be allowed in.

Stand Up To Racism is ideally placed to link all these issues and all activists should join and build it.

Rhiannon Bartlett
Doncaster

BROKEN POTTERIES?

The racist Ukip party hopes it can win the Stoke-on-Trent by-election as the press feeds an atmosphere of anti-migrant racism, but **Nick Clark** finds Labour's problems go deeper than its failure to offer an anti-racist alternative

LABOUR IS in trouble in Stoke-on-Trent—but not for the reason most newspapers tell you. The racist Ukip party is fighting hard to take the Stoke-on-Trent Central seat from Labour at the coming by-election on 23 February.

Many fear Ukip could do very well—if not actually win the seat. But anti-racists are fighting hard to stop Ukip.

They were out leafleting on Sunday and demonstrated at a rally featuring Ukip leader and candidate Paul Nuttall with former leader Nigel Farage in the constituency on Monday.

The Labour Party is fighting to hold the seat, with a strong emphasis on defending the NHS. In blog posts on his website, which he has since deleted, Nuttall called for the NHS to be privatised.

"I would like to congratulate the coalition government for bringing a whiff of

privatisation into the beleaguered National Health Service," he wrote.

Nuttall hopes Ukip's anti-migrant racism will connect with Stoke's strong vote to leave the European Union (EU)—and replace Labour as what he calls the "patriotic voice of working people".

It's clear that anti-immigrant racism can take hold in Stoke—and that Ukip could benefit. Back in 2009 the Nazi British National Party (BNP) gained nine seats on Stoke city council using similar racist rhetoric.

Peddled

And there are people in Stoke who accept the idea peddled from the top of society that immigrants are the cause of problems in the city.

Andrew is one of them—and he thinks Ukip is in with a chance of winning. "It's a strong working class area and I think that the tide's turned," he said.

"The biggest issue is you look around town and you don't see local people anymore. There's been massive contentious issues



Pic: SOCIALIST WORKER

£130 MILLION
Cuts to Stoke City Council services while under Labour control

£1 MILLION
Is being slashed from children's centres, with closures and job losses

with people coming in."

Stoke Labour Party member and anti-racist campaigner Jason Hill has been canvassing against Ukip as part of the North Staffordshire Campaign Against Racism And Fascism (Norscarf).

He told Socialist Worker, "I think Ukip is a danger. We wouldn't be out campaigning if it wasn't."

"Stoke was one of the councils that had lots of BNP votes a few years ago. So the anti-immigration rhetoric has been around for a long time."

Most politicians—Labour and Ukip—along with most of the media want to paint a picture of Stoke as a city where everyone wants less immigration.

Yet on the streets of Hanley—one of the towns in Stoke-on-Trent Central—the picture is more complicated.

Council worker and Labour Party member Michelle told Socialist Worker, "Migration is not the problem—and being

harder on migration is not what the Labour Party should be about.

"The problem is there's just not enough investment. I work in local government and there's not enough investment in that."

Another Stoke resident, Carlos, said, "I don't see how immigrants are a problem. I think the problem is with the council and the cutbacks."

"They sell off all the housing to these private associations and landlords for cheap. But how are they going to get any income? It's all for short term gain."

He added, "How can immigrants be a problem? If they're being paid lower wages isn't the problem with the employer? So you can't say immigrants are taking all the jobs."

It's become a common sense to see the vote to leave the EU as a vote against immigration. But despite that there are plenty of non-racist Leave voters.

Mark McEvoy lives in Stoke



Labour made the cuts it sh

STOKE CITY Council, controlled by Labour until 2015, implemented the Tory government's cuts.

And Stoke-on-Trent Central MP—posh boy Tristram Hunt, whose resignation triggered the by-election—has been seen to do nothing.

When Labour lost control of the council it was replaced by a coalition made up of Ukip and the Tories, and led by the "City Independents".

The independents grew as an alternative to Labour. But they're a mixed bag.

They are not backing Nuttall, but although led by ex-Labour members they also include former Ukip and BNP councillors—and they have carried on with austerity.

Their cuts include plans to slash £1 million from Stoke's children's centres by axing 61 jobs—which

will mean services will be withdrawn and centres will close.

It's just another attack on working class people in Stoke.

Parents and volunteers protested outside the council against the plans last month.

Protected

Labour councillors, including Labour group leader Mohammed Pervez, joined the protest. He told Socialist Worker that while he was council leader, Labour "protected children's services."

Yet at the same time he said Labour had lost control of the council partly because of "the Tory government's cut to local services taking a toll of £130 million cuts that we had to make."

"They were imposed on us, we had no choice," he said.

"If we didn't take the difficult decisions the council would have

“Migration is not the problem—and being hard on migration is not what Labour should be about”

Collieries such as this one have closed around Stoke, contributing to one of the highest unemployment rates in Britain

PIC: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/HALFMONKEY

and voted to leave the EU. But as he told Socialist Worker, his vote wasn't about immigration—it was about a sense that the system just isn't working.

"People assume that if you voted Leave you're against immigrants," he said. "But it's got nothing to do with that. If you need help then you need help."

Suck

"European laws just suck. All the stupid European laws are sucking the life out of the businesses and that's where the country's going wrong."

To find out what's really behind Labour's problems in Stoke, you have to begin by looking at what was really behind Stoke's high Leave vote.

The Resolution Foundation research organisation found that areas where high numbers of people are out of work voted to Leave.

And Stoke-on-Trent Central has one of the highest unemployment rates in Britain.

Now in his 50s, Andrew lost his job a few years ago and has to work

two part-time jobs. Unemployment is a big issue for him—and he doesn't trust Ukip to sort it out.

"We need jobs in the area—we've lost everything. We've lost steel, we've lost the coal mines, all the potteries have gone abroad."

"My biggest fear is that if Ukip gets in we're not going to get any investment in the area. We'll just become a desolate place. It's horrendous what's going on."

UKIP WOULD like to link unemployment to immigration. But aside from the fact that study after study has shown no link between immigration and unemployment, Stoke's migrant population is no higher than many other towns and cities.

Many people voted Leave to revolt against the establishment. And as part of the establishment in Stoke, Labour has taken a kicking.

Andrew doesn't just feel ignored or let down by Labour. "I feel betrayed," he said. So there's no doubt that the

6.9%
Stoke unemployment rate—compared to national average of 4.8%

69.4%
Voted to Leave the EU in Stoke—the highest Leave vote in any city

situation in Stoke is messy and complicated. People can be pulled in different directions.

Some, such as Andrew, Mark and Helena (see below) will vote for Labour without much enthusiasm.

System

Others, such as Haroon, may not vote at all. "I normally do vote but the system's shit nowadays," he said. "I don't agree with any of them."

"I normally vote for Labour but to be honest they're not much different."

The real danger is that many more people could be pulled towards Ukip. Combining anger and disaffection with racism is the kind of toxic mixture that Ukip could thrive on.

Labour can prosper only by putting forward a positive alternative that relates to working class people and smashes the myths about migration. It's right to highlight the threats to the NHS, but unless there's also a stand against racism it will not be successful.

People can be lulled into accepting the lie that "health tourism" or "too

many migrants" are to blame for the NHS crisis.

Defence of the NHS, defending migrants, fighting over class issues such as a £10 an hour minimum wage, and a Brexit that favours working people need to go together.

Yet the official Labour campaign has avoided tackling Ukip's racism entirely.

And when Labour MPs speak out against workers' freedom of movement across Europe, they give ground to the lies that feed Ukip.

Jeremy Corbyn won the leadership by offering a radical break from establishment politics. Labour needs a class-based and anti-racist campaign in Stoke.

That's why it's important that Norscarf and others, including Stand Up To Racism activists, are campaigning to expose Ukip's racism.

A similar, anti-fascist, campaign wiped out the BNP in Stoke.

There is a real threat from Ukip in Stoke on 23 February, but it could also be a massive blow to them if their new leader is beaten.

Should have been fighting

been bankrupt." That argument doesn't wash with Mark.

"When Labour were in they were on about shutting the children's centres and it was the Tories who said 'no you can't,'" he said.

"But as soon as the Tories and the independents came in, it was one of the first things they were going to do. You vote different people in and it's always the same."

Helena, another children's centre user and volunteer, said, "There has been a shift overall throughout the whole country. People have been fed up with just the same wheel spinning round and round."

For Helena the real problem is that no MP—including her own Tristram Hunt—seems to care about the problems faced by ordinary people.

If Ukip gets in we'll just become a desolate place. It's horrendous

Paul Nuttall wants to sell off the NHS—and peddles racist lies

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

A rebel's guide to James Connolly

Wed 15 Feb, 6pm, Belmont Cinema Cafe, 49 Belmont St, AB10 1JS

BARNSLEY

Deliveroo and Uber—has the working class disappeared?

Thu 16 Feb, 7pm, YMCA, Blucher St, S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

From Stonewall to Trump—fighting for LGBT+ liberation

Wed 15 Feb, 7pm, LGBT Centre, 38/40 Holloway Circus, B1 1EQ

BRADFORD

Can climate change be stopped?

Thu 16 Feb, 7pm, Glyde House, Little Horton Lane, BD5 0BQ

BRISTOL

Racism, austerity and war—the case for revolutionary socialism

Wed 15 Feb, 7.30pm, YHA, 14 Narrow Quay, BS1 4QA

BURNLEY

How dangerous are Trump and the US right?

Wed 15 Feb, 7.30pm, Red Triangle Cafe, 160 St James's St, BB11 1NR

CARDIFF

The Arab Spring six years on

Wed 15 Feb, 7.30pm, Cathays Community Centre, Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

Why is capitalism addicted to fossil fuels?

Thu 16 Feb, 7.30pm, Chesterfield Library, New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

COVENTRY

The Russian Revolution in 1905—the first soviets

Wed 15 Feb, 7.30pm, West Indian Centre, 159 Spon St, CV1 3BB

DUNDEE

100 years on—the February revolution

Wed 15 Feb, 7.30pm, Dundee Voluntary Action, 10 Constitution Rd, DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

Brexit and Scottish independence

Wed 15 Feb, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

HUDDERSFIELD

Economic crisis, fascism, war—what can socialists learn from the 1930s?

Wed 15 Feb, 6.30pm, Brian Jackson House, 2 New North Parade, HD1 5JP

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

China—superpower in crisis?

Thu 16 Feb, 7pm, Swarthmore Education Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square, LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

From Stonewall to Trump—fighting for LGBT+ liberation

Thu 23 Feb, 7.30pm, The Caledonia, 22 Caledonia St, L7 7DX

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

From Stonewall to Trump—fighting for LGBT+ liberation

Thu 16 Feb, 7.30pm, The Pepperpot Centre, 1a Thorpe Close, Ladbrooke Grove, W10 5XL

LONDON: EALING

Understanding imperialism—why does capitalism generate wars?

Thu 16 Feb, 7.30pm, Y Lounge, YMCA West London, 25 St Mary's Rd, W5 2RE

{ SOCIALIST WORKER }

BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

STAND UP TO RACISM MEETINGS

Refugees and migrants welcome—stand up to racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism

Mobilising events for national demonstrations on Saturday 18 March in London, Glasgow and Cardiff. Go to standuptoracism.org.uk for more information about the demonstrations



ANTI-RACISTS protest in Glasgow

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

BARNESLEY

Sat 18 Feb, 1pm, Barnsley Central Library, Market St, S70 1WA.

Speakers include Pauline McCarthy (Bfawu, Labour NEC)

BLACK COUNTRY

Wed 15 Feb, 7pm, West Bromwich Town Hall, High St, West Bromwich, B70 8DT.

Speakers include Azad Ali (Mend), Ian Hodson (Bfawu)

BOLTON

Sat 11 Feb, 2pm, Bolton Methodist Mission, Victoria Hall,

37 Knowsley St, BL1 2AS.

Speakers include Yasmin Qureshi MP, Yusuf Tai (Mend)

BRADFORD

Tue 21 Mar, 6.30pm, Bowling Old Lane Cricket Club, BD5 8BH

Speakers include Julie Ward MEP, Weyman Bennett (Stand Up To Racism)

HULL

Thu 16 Feb, 7pm, Hull Afro-Caribbean Centre,

25/26 Park St, HU2 8RR.

Speakers include Janet Alder (justice campaigner), Yunus Bakhsh (employment rights barrister)

LONDON: HACKNEY

Thu 2 March, 7.30pm, Old School Rooms, The Round Chapel, 2 Powerscroft Rd, E5 0PU.

Speakers include Diane Abbott MP, Gary Younge

LEEDS

Sat 25 Feb, 12 noon,

Leeds Civic Hall, Council Chambers, Calverly St,

LS1 1UR.

Speakers include Julie Ward MEP, Catherine West MP

LONDON: HARINGEY

Tue 28 Feb, 7.30pm, Kurdish Community Centre, 11 Portland Gardens, N14 1HU.

Speakers include Catherine West MP

NOTTINGHAM

Wed 1 Mar, 7pm, Nonsuch Theatre, N_SPACE, 32a Clarendon St, NG1 5JD.

Speakers include Roger McKenzie (Unison), Shelly Asquith (NUS)

YORK

Wed 15 Feb, 7.30pm, Priory Street Community Centre, Priory St, YO1 6ET.

Speakers include Moazzam Begg (Cage), Rachael Maskell MP

WEST BROMWICH

Wed 15 Feb, 7pm, West Bromwich Town Hall, High St, B70 8DT.

Speakers include Cllr Jackie Taylor

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

NATIONAL

Climate refugees—climate crisis and population displacement

Sat 11 Feb, 10am-5pm, National Union of Teachers, 322 King St, London WC1H 9BD.

Register at campaigncc.org

Marxism 2017

6-9 July, central London. Organised by the SWP. Go to marxismfestival.org.uk/booking/details

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Thu 9 Mar, 7pm, The Priory Rooms, Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull St, B4 6AF

BRISTOL

Mon 6 Mar, 7.30pm, YHA, 14 Narrow Quay, BS1 4QA

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Sat 25 Mar, 7pm, The Swarthmore Education Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square, LS3 1AD

SHEFFIELD

Thu 2 Mar, 7pm, Central United Reformed Church, 60 Norfolk St, S1 2JB

YORK

Wed 1 Mar, 7.30pm, Priory Street Community Centre, 15 Priory St, YO1 6ET

CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600

Email enquiries@swp.org.uk

Post PO Box 71327, London SE11 9BW'

LONDON: CENTRAL

Wed 8 Mar, 7pm, Student Central, Malet St, WC1E 7HY

MANCHESTER

Sat 25 Mar, 7pm, Mechanics Institute, 103 Princess St, M1 6DD

BRISTOL

Mon 6 Mar, 7.30pm, YHA, 14 Narrow Quay, BS1 4QA

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Sat 25 Mar, 7pm, The Swarthmore Education Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square, LS3 1AD

SHEFFIELD

Thu 2 Mar, 7pm, Central United Reformed Church, 60 Norfolk St, S1 2JB

YORK

Shipped off and enslaved to build a new world of wealth

The remake of 1970s TV series Roots personalises the struggles that slaves faced and helps expose the roots of racism today, writes **Antony Hamilton**

ROOTS IS a brilliant remake of the late 1970s TV series which follows the life of Kunta Kinte through captivity and freedom.

From the beginning, we are greeted with an eclectic mix of characters—each with their own personalities, ideologies and dreams.

They live in the 18th Century kingdom of Juffere in Gambia, west Africa. Their culture and traditions are shown as they are, not glamourised or undermined but with the complexities that everyday life brings.

The boys' transition to adulthood, the role of women and, crucially, the slave trade define the first episode, throwing Kinte into a series of challenges.

This is not the view of Africa in the 18th century which is characterised by barbarism and underdevelopment but one that is harsh, challenging and beautiful all at the same time.

Kinte is swiftly forced to come to terms with European colonialism.

Invaders

The destructive effect of the slave trade pressured African tribes and nations to develop militaristic regimes, both to protect themselves from the foreign invaders but also to sell their neighbours in the hopes of being spared themselves.

Slave systems existed in Africa before the Europeans came, similar to those of the Greek and Roman empires. But the transatlantic slave trade radically changed old concepts of slavery.

People were taken in their millions, entire landscapes



KUNTA KINTE (Malachi Kirby) in the promising remake of Roots

destroyed and shipped off to build a new world of wealth for an emerging capitalist class.

The story of Kinte personalises the struggles slaves would face.

First is captivity—being taken, branded and forced into shackles. Second is the middle passage—held for months in the hull of a ship

with only scraps of food to keep the slaves alive.

The middle passage was plagued with death, infestation and mutilation. For millions this was the final stage. But for those who made it to the Americas the final stage was back-breaking forced labour.

The series brilliantly depicts

the resilience of the slaves, their attempts to overthrow their captors and work together despite originating from different and often hostile tribes.

When Kinte reaches the Americas he's met with brutal racism. First from the traders who treat him as a curiosity and value him based on his shape. And, second, from the house slave who is won to the culture of their captors.

Plantation

The ideology of the plantation owners is summed up by the slave driver who says, "you don't buy a slave, you make a slave".

The brutal reality of life on the plantations—collective punishments and examples made of slaves—force Kinte to submit initially, but he plots his resistance and maintains his faith and roots.

This mini-series comes at a crucial time when Muslims are blamed for the ills of society and protesters are compelled to fight for something as simple as saying "Black Lives Matter".

It is a welcome challenge to the institutional racism black people face on a daily basis and a way of exposing the roots of where it comes from.

The rest of the series looks promising, keeping true to the original novel by Alex Haley. It's definitely worth watching.

Roots starts on Wed 8 Feb, 9pm, BBC Four or online bbc.co.uk/iplayer

Read more online

The origins of racism
bit.ly/2kZBell

People's struggles are what music should be about

INTERVIEW

THE BATTLE by workers at Kirklees Council in West Yorkshire against cuts underlines an album from music duo Darkstar.

One of Foam Island's standout tracks features the chilling announcement that asked people to decide where the £69 million of cuts should fall.

James Young of Darkstar told Socialist Worker that the album, written during the 2015 general election, was influenced by the alienation young people

felt. "People couldn't identify with the options in front of them," he said. "And there was no way that Labour under Ed Miliband was appealing to working class kids in West Yorkshire."

Obstacles

He thinks that "selfish" infighting in Labour at the moment is losing the momentum for leader Jeremy Corbyn. "There are too many obstacles within the party for Corbyn to succeed."

Foam Island is a subtly but unapologetically



Darkstar's James Young

political album. Another track describes the struggle of day to day life.

James said, "Foam Island was ignored by major publications.

Money

"We felt the effects of people not paying it attention—you have to have one eye on making enough money to get by. We spent a lot of the advance we got on the recordings in Huddersfield."

He talked about how music is shaped by its time. "Foam Island is

about a malaise, how you can't really relate to the options in front of you," he said. "We've seen that with things like Trump's election recently."

"I think the Democrats missed a huge trick with Bernie Sanders, I feel like he would have conveyed a message to people who are struggling."

As Chantelle, featured in the album, says, "There doesn't seem to be anybody current who understands the problems we have. It's a different kind of struggle now."

Go to darkstar.ws

EXHIBITION

MAPS AND THE 20TH CENTURY: DRAWING THE LINE

British Library, 96 Euston Rd, London NW1 2DB. Open until 1 March

TWO WORLD Wars. The moon landings. The digital revolution. This exhibition of extraordinary maps looks at the important role they played throughout history.

Mapmaking has been an integral part of human existence for thousands of years. This exhibition looks at snapshots from this history.

From the original sketches for the London Underground network to imperialist war propaganda there is much to see.

Map lovers will no doubt enjoy a trip to the British Library for this, but even they may be left wondering if the £12 entry fee is really worth it.

TELEVISION

AFTER SHEKU

Available to watch on BBC iplayer bbc.in/2kZf8k1

WHY DID Sheku Bayoh die following his arrest on the morning of 3 May 2015?

He died of asphyxiation after being pepper-sprayed, restrained by up to nine police officers, and kneeled on by two police with a combined weight of around 43 stone.

This documentary follows Sheku's family over 20 months as they try to find out how he died within two hours of being arrested in Kirkcaldy, Fife.

To keep up to date with the campaign or make a donation go to [Justice For Sheku Ahmed Tejan Bayoh](http://JusticeForShekuAhmedTejanBayoh) on Facebook

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

1	A Rebel's Guide to Malcolm X Antony Hamilton
2	1917: Russia's Red Year Tim Sanders and John Newsinger
3	Stalin Leon Trotsky
4	Them and Us John Newsinger
5	Prevent: why we should dissent Stand Up To Racism and Muslim Engagement and Development

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE



RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

PUNDITS OF all stripes will have a lot to say about the Bolshevik party this year.

But they'll say little about who the Bolsheviks actually were—and how they led the Russian Revolution.

When the revolution began in February 1917 the Bolsheviks had just 10,000 members, but by November they had 250,000.

The bulk of the working class, which had taken power with their leadership, supported them.

That's because the Bolsheviks knew that the working class had to take power for the revolution to succeed. They also understood that socialist organisation was essential to making sure that happened.

This set them apart from the two other major left wing parties, the Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs) and the Mensheviks (see column, right).

The SRs and the Mensheviks both took part in the revolution when it began, but they didn't believe the working class was capable of taking power. They believed that setting up a capitalist parliamentary democracy was the limit of what was possible.

But the Bolsheviks argued that the councils that workers had set up, called soviets, laid the basis for a workers' government.

Overthrown

This difference meant the Bolsheviks took much clearer positions than the SRs and the Mensheviks.

After the Tsarist monarchy was overthrown in February, the SRs and Mensheviks backed Russia's involvement in the First World War to "defend" their new capitalist democracy.

But the Bolsheviks demanded an immediate end to the war. They argued that even though Russia had a new Provisional Government, the war was still an imperialist bloodbath.

The Provisional Government was trying to hold together a society that was falling apart and the soviets were becoming a threat to its authority.

The SRs and the Mensheviks joined and backed it against the soviets—even as workers began to look beyond it.

But the Bolsheviks were on the side of the growing mass of workers who were fed up with the Provisional Government. This meant they were able to connect with the growing radical mood—and argue for the soviets to take power.

The Bolsheviks' success wasn't just based on having the right arguments

WHY YOU SHOULD BE BOLSHIE

Revolts repeatedly break out, but they don't always win. The Bolshevik party in Russia showed how socialist organisation plays a critical role in driving revolutions forward to victory

Pundits claim that the Bolsheviks opportunistically imposed themselves as leaders.

They want to portray the Bolsheviks as outsiders who took advantage of workers' anger to launch a coup.

The Bolsheviks did give the working class leadership—but were only able to do so because they were part of the working class.

Most of the Bolsheviks' members were workers. They fought the same battles in the factories

“
The Bolsheviks' success wasn't just based on having the right arguments

Vladimir Lenin

and the soviets as other workers—and constantly debated and argued the way forward.

It was only through proving themselves in struggle that the Bolsheviks could win the trust and leadership of the workers.

As workers radicalised throughout 1917, more and more joined the Bolsheviks.

The party became more rooted and built stronger links with the mass of workers during the revolution.

They moved to the forefront of the revolution while the Mensheviks quibbled, split

organisation that the Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin imagined at the beginning of the 20th century.

The Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP) had only recently been formed and revolutionaries in Russia were still grappling with how to organise.

Lenin argued that there needed to be "an organisation ready at any time to support every protest and every outbreak and use it to consolidate the fighting forces suitable for the decisive struggle."

He was arguing against revolutionaries who only tried to organise workers to fight around narrow "economic" demands such as wages.

They thought that workers' struggles for small gains would naturally lead them to challenge the system.

But Lenin argued that it wasn't enough to only organise workplace struggles—revolutionaries had to fight political battles too.

This also meant fighting against all forms of oppression, "no matter where it appears, no matter what stratum or class of the people if affects".

The point was to draw together all these different struggles—and point them towards a bigger fight against the system that produced them.

THE organisation that could do this had to be involved in all aspects of the struggle, but it also had to be "centralised".

Local groups fed back their experiences to an elected leadership which made decisions.

This ensured the organisation could react quickly to changes in the struggle—and the whole organisation would act together.

Lenin's proposals led to the first split between the Bolshevik and the Menshevik wings of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP).

He argued that the party needed a tight membership of dedicated revolutionaries—but the Mensheviks preferred a looser type of organisation.

But the formal Bolshevik organisation took was incredibly flexible.

During the 1905 revolution, Lenin argued to "open the gates of the party" so it could reach new layers of workers who had become radicalised.

After the revolution's failure the Bolsheviks faced mass repression. It forced their leadership into exile and the party to operate in strict secrecy.

The Mensheviks were more often the larger of the two in the run-up to the 1917 revolution.

But when it broke out the Bolsheviks were able to react quickly to rapidly unfolding developments.

They moved to the forefront of the revolution while the Mensheviks quibbled, split

and disintegrated. That's not to say that the Bolsheviks never had disagreements or made mistakes.

Even in the midst of the revolution they were constantly debating and occasionally getting things wrong.

But their centralised organisation, rooted in workers' struggle, meant they were able to recognise mistakes, argue them out and correct them.

For instance at the start of the revolution the Bolsheviks, headed by Joseph Stalin and Lev Kamenev, supported the Provisional Government and continuing the war.

LENIN LED the argument against them and had won out by April. But as revolutionary Leon Trotsky pointed out, he was only successful because Bolshevik activists were already used to constantly pushing the struggle forward.

They "strove to act—however confused by their leaders—like uncompromising revolutionists".

When the First World War broke out, Bolshevik groups came out against the war before the leadership.

Crucially it was the Bolsheviks' working class membership, waging the struggle on the ground, that saw the need to fight for workers to take power.

Committed to the struggle, the Bolsheviks were able to play a decisive role in key events of the revolution.

When armed soldiers and workers took to the streets of the capital Petrograd in July to demonstrate against the Provisional Government the Bolsheviks were with them.

But they also knew that workers in other parts of Russia weren't ready to overthrow the government. So while fighting alongside the workers in Petrograd, they also argued against taking power at that time.

The Bolsheviks withheld attempts by the Provisional Government to smash them after July.

And their strong organisation inside the class meant the government had to rely on them to defeat a right wing coup attempt in August.

Their active participation in the struggle meant they quickly won the respect of workers. US socialist journalist John Reed,

This is the sixth of series of weekly articles on the Russian Revolution.

For the introductory article go to bit.ly/2i3W2pL and for the full list go to tinyurl.com/sw1917

The Socialist Workers Party will also be holding

events throughout the year including a major conference on 4 November.

The dates of the Russian Revolution can be confusing. Russia used the Julian or Old Style calendar until 24 January 1918, when this was replaced by the Gregorian or New Style calendar. To convert Old Style dates to New Style dates, add 13 days.

So 26 October 1917 Old Style becomes 8 November New Style. Importantly, the labour movement in Russia celebrated International Women's Day and May Day on the same New Style date as workers elsewhere.

The Mensheviks were revolutionaries, but ended up siding with forces opposed to the Russian Revolution. How did this happen?

THE BOLSHEVIKS and Mensheviks were divided since the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party's (RSDLP) conference in 1903.

All of those who attended, both the Bolsheviks (majority) and Mensheviks (minority), were revolutionaries of one sort or another. But the RSDLP's two factions disagreed over two central issues.

The first was who would lead the revolution against the Tsar.

The Bolsheviks argued that the revolution must be led by the working class, drawing in the mass of peasants behind it. While the Russian working class was small, it had social power disproportionate to its size.

The Mensheviks believed that a revolution first had to usher in a modern, capitalist Russia before a socialist revolution could happen.

Alliances

This meant the working class had to form alliances with the bosses—and hand leadership over to them.

But while many capitalists hated the Tsar, they were more frightened of the power of the rising working class.

In addition, the Mensheviks were for a looser form of party organisation (see left).

Such differences—which might have seemed small—were to grow into vital questions of how to take the struggle forward.

But it's not true that the Mensheviks and Bolsheviks formed wholly distinct groups in 1903. There were repeated efforts at unification and joint working, but the differences grew.

A substantial section of Mensheviks called for a much broader party, drawing in people who were not revolutionaries.

The clamour for such a loose grouping grew



RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

What did the Mensheviks stand for in the revolution?

of the RSDLP. Do all these splits and struggles matter?

Yes, because in 1914 one section of the Mensheviks, following the capitalists, supported the Russian state in the First World War.

Power Yes, because in 1917 the life and death of the revolution was at stake.

Would the working class take power or simply urge on the liberal capitalists?

In practice, the Menshevik position meant a coalition with those who were seeking to repress radical forces and flirt with counter revolutionary generals.

During 1917, the Mensheviks urged the capitalists to act in a revolutionary manner—just as they were heading off in the completely opposite direction.

As working class dissatisfaction grew with the Provisional Government, Bolshevik support soared and Menshevik support collapsed.

Some of the left section of the Mensheviks, known as the Internationalists, moved towards the Bolsheviks.

One section came out openly against the October Revolution when workers took power.

Unfortunately, although the Mensheviks were defeated in Russia, their political allies in much of the rest of Europe dominated the left.

This meant revolutionary opportunities were missed—with disastrous consequences.

In 1914 one section of the Mensheviks supported the First World War

Southern rail deal should be rejected

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

A DEAL brokered by the TUC trade union federation aimed at ending the Southern Rail dispute has caused uproar among rail workers and passenger groups.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady chaired the talks between Southern and the train drivers' Aslef union—but not the train guards' RMT union.

The right wing Telegraph newspaper crowed that Southern had “won its battle”, on behalf of the Tory government, to extend driver only operation (DOO).

RMT general secretary Mick Cash rightly criticised the “appalling” way the TUC excluded his union from the talks.

No amount of weasel words from the TUC can justify the shabby exclusion of the recognised train guards’ union.

Train guard and RMT member Victor described the deal as “far worse than I could have imagined”. He



DISABLED PEOPLE Against the Cuts supports strikers. But a new deal puts accessibility at risk

added, “The drivers are not happy. I don’t think it’ll be voted in—I’d be surprised if it was.”

Charlie, an Aslef train driver on Southern, told Socialist Worker he was “not impressed” by the deal and had been expecting a

“stormy” Aslef meeting on Monday.

The bottom line is that the deal accepts DOO. It also surely contradicts the joint statement signed by Cash and Aslef general secretary Mick Whelan to “campaign in unity to oppose” DOO.

Hinting that he may not be as proud of the deal as O’Grady, Whelan said, “This is not a template for the industry, it is a resolution to an individual dispute.”

But that resolution accepts what Southern drivers and guards have been

fighting for the last year.

And it stokes the fears of disabled passengers that Southern has turned the clock back on accessibility.

The firm admits there is now no guarantee that it will assist disabled people at its stations.

A passenger group taking legal action against the Department for Transport (DfT) said, “There is no way of defending this move as anything but a step back for accessibility.”

The Association of British Commuters (ABC) has applied for a judicial review of DfT’s handling of the management contract handed to Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), Southern’s owners.

Discriminated

ABC is challenging the DfT’s failure “to determine and announce within a reasonable time” whether GTR has breached its contract and discriminated against disabled passengers.

The Aslef deal came just days before a highly critical MPs’ report on rail franchising.

It “exposed serious deficiencies” in the DfT’s monitoring of the “seriously underperforming” GTR.

It found that DfT’s contract “exposes the department financially”—to the tune of £38 million in just the latest financial year.

Passengers suffering the woeful service will be furious to learn that the operator’s “performance rewards” were greater than the penalties it had to pay.

The committee has also previously described the department and its ministers as “unacceptably opaque and evasive”.

This is because the Tories have been pulling the strings in this dispute and hired GTR to go to war with the unions. Extending DOO will hand millions to the rail fat cats.

Aslef members are being balloted with a recommendation to accept the deal.

They should reject it and demand their union returns to action, coordinated with the RMT, and push back DOO to give the Tories a bloody nose.

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Refugees welcomed into schools in Greece

Workers and anti-racists forced the government to let refugees out of camps, reports **Katerina Thoidou**

BIG PROTESTS welcomed around 500 refugee children to school in the port city of Piraeus, near Athens in Greece, on Tuesday of last week.

Teachers, parents, anti-racists, trade unionists from the local councils and all the left wing parties came together.

About 500 refugee children started school last October because of campaigning. And hundreds more will follow over the coming weeks.

The Syriza government initially planned to set up schools inside the refugee camps.

But teachers and anti-racists pushed them to bring the children into the schools.

There's a very strong mood to support refugees since the majority of people—including many union branches—spent months last year collecting for them.

In the Peristeri area of Athens the Tory mayor opposed letting refugees into the school.

But 300 people from the anti-racist movement Keerfa and the left parties occupied the council building last week.

He changed his mind and now refugee children will start in Peristeri's schools next week.

The fascist party Golden Dawn was the last straw for many people.

The ministry of education organised school meetings with parents and teachers in Piraeus last month about the arrival of refugee children.

Attacked

Police escorted a Golden Dawn MP into one of them, where he and his thugs attacked people—and were caught on video.

Piraeus is where three of Golden Dawn's most notorious attacks took place in 2013, including the murder of musician Pavlos Fyssas.

The trial of Golden Dawn members currently taking place makes sure everyone remembers this.

There is a really strong mood against them.

BACK STORY

The Greek government has forced refugees there into camps

- This followed a European Union agreement that allowed refugees to be deported to Turkey
- But refugees in Greece have fought back—and many ordinary people have supported them
- Around 500 refugee children were welcomed into school in Piraeus last week
- The children came to school, instead of being taught in the camps, because of campaigning

When Golden Dawn tried to stop refugee children getting into schools there was an explosion.

Everywhere people said, "That's enough, bring the children, we have no problem with them."

The government still refuses to teach the refugee children alongside Greek children. They don't start school until an hour after the Greek children leave. This is discrimination.

Teachers' union branches are demanding that they start in the morning, with more staff and food for all the children—refugee and Greek.

There are also about 20,000 refugee children stuck in Greece.

Too many people are still living in winter conditions in tents and without cooking equipment.

Five people died in the camps this week—including a two month old child who couldn't get to a hospital.

A protest is planned outside the immigration ministry.

It will demand that the camps are closed—and that public buildings closed because of the cuts be reopened for refugees.

We have to keep pressuring the government, but we have made a good start.

Katerina Thoidou is a councillor for Antarsya, the coalition of the anti-capitalist left, in the Nikaeia area of Piraeus



WELCOMING REFUGEE children to a school in Piraeus near Athens

PICTURE: WORKERS' SOLIDARITY

Locking people out to drown or starve is a rotten response to climate change

CAMPAIGNERS WERE set to meet in central London on Saturday to discuss climate change and refugees.

By some estimates, climate change-related disasters have already displaced 140 million people in the last six years.

Far larger numbers could be displaced over the coming decades.

Major cities will flood. Important agricultural areas will decline and fisheries collapse.

This process has already begun. If urgent action is taken to address the causes of climate change, it can be limited, slowed and managed.

But many millions of people will have to move.

Reality

Sections of the ruling class, such as new US president Donald Trump, seek to play down the reality of climate change.

But others look to a response in the model of the "lifeboat ethics" proposed by 20th century eugenicist Garrett Hardin.

He argued that if a ship sinks and there aren't enough lifeboats to go around, trying to keep everyone safe will end up sinking them too. It's better for a few

CLIMATE REFUGEES

Refugees and population displacement conference

Saturday 11 February,
10am-5pm
Hamilton House,
London WC1H 9BD

Tickets £5/£10
register at campaigncc.org

Organised by the Campaign Against Climate Change and Friends of the Earth

must be controlled to keep emissions down.

This plays into the hands of a system that creates scarcity in a world of plenty.

Climate change could give ammunition to their arguments that there aren't enough resources to go around. They say humanity has surpassed Earth's "carrying capacity".

Catastrophe

In reality there is more than enough food and land for everybody—but a system built on inequality stops it being shared out. Climate catastrophe could change that.

But it will take the chaos of the market economy to turn food shortages into famines, and imperialist competition to turn them into wars.

Human creativity and ingenuity can limit climate change and adapt to its effects. But a society organised to produce profit holds us back.

Those at the top of society will step up their war on refugees in order to preserve it.

Our survival may depend on taking them on.

people to survive, he claimed, even if it's at the cost of ruthlessly pushing everyone else into the sea.

The "security" industry that makes fences, guns and drones to control borders is growing fast.

Its bosses are greedily looking forward to government demand for their services going even higher.

And unfortunately even some in the environmental movement accept dangerous arguments that there are too many people.

Others say that immigration

IN BRIEF

Mark 50 years of right to choose fight

THE ABORTION Rights campaign is set to hold a public meeting, Fifty years of Activism, this Saturday in central London to mark a half century since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act.

The meeting begins at 1pm and Abortion Rights will hold its AGM from 3pm.

● Fifty Years of Activism, Saturday 11 February, 1-5pm, Unite the Union, 33-37 Moreland St, London EC1V 8BB

Rotherham anti-fascist unity rally

ROTHERHAM UNITE Against Fascism (UAF) has called a unity rally in the South Yorkshire town on Saturday 25 February. The rally will oppose the fascist English Defence League, which plans to protest in the town.

The UAF rally assembles from 1pm in All Saints Square.

● Go to Rotherham Unite Against Fascism on Facebook

Legal fight against government payoffs

CIVIL SERVICE union PCS has launched a legal challenge to Tory cuts to redundancy payments.

The Tories forced through cuts to civil service workers' redundancy payments in November last year before the PCS had balloted its members on the cuts.

The union is consulting its branches "on where we can best campaign and take action to put pressure on the government."

Historic cleaners' LSE strike ballot

CLEANERS AT the London School of Economics (LSE) are set to begin the first ballot for industrial action by cleaners in the university's history this week.

The LSE and outsourcing firm Noonan have refused to acknowledge cleaners' demands for equal pay and conditions with workers directly employed by the university.

● To donate to the cleaners' strike fund go to bit.ly/2Iayldq

Crucial week for Haringey housing

NORTH LONDON housing activists in Haringey are gearing up for a crucial week in their fight to save estates in the borough from redevelopment, by a Labour council in league with property developers.

A public meeting is set to take place this Monday, 13 February, 7pm, at Wood Green Social Club with a march and rally on Tuesday evening, assembling at Duckett's Common, 5pm.

Rally at Haringey Civic Centre 6pm.

● Go to Haringey Defend Council Housing on Facebook

DEATHS IN CUSTODY



AROUND 60 people marched through Huddersfield last Saturday to the police station over the police killing of Yassar Yaqub. Police shot Yassar dead as he sat in a car on the M62 near Huddersfield, west Yorkshire, in January

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

TRANSPORT

Woolwich ferry strikes have stalled for talks

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

FERRY WORKERS in Woolwich walked out for a second time over allegations of management bullying and sexual harassment last Friday.

They operate the Thames river ferry crossing in south east London.

One worker alleged to Socialist Worker that she had received unwanted sexual attention from a manager and bullying over an extended period.

Pushed

She said, "I almost applied for another job, but I thought, 'Why should I be pushed out?'

"I didn't think I could get through this, but my workmates, friends and family are angry and have given me support."

The Unite and GMB union members' dispute with Briggs



Woolwich ferry strikers

Marine bosses intensified this week after exhaust fumes overwhelmed three engineers.

An engineer told Socialist Worker, "I went home feeling rough and passed out.

"Three of us were off sick because of it."

Jeff, one of the workers, told Socialist Worker, "Management knew about the fumes for a week, but they left the boat in service.

"It seems to me that the other two boats were

not in good condition and management didn't want to go down to a one-boat service."

The incident also raises questions about whether it posed a danger to passengers using the ferry. Greg, another engineer, said, "The door is not airtight and the fumes were leaking out into the main hall."

Greg described the health and safety situation as a "redundancy programme by stealth".

Skills

"We had around 23 people in the workshop before and now we've got just 12 and people without the right skills are having to do things," he said.

Workers are determined to fight back—but their plan to walk out every Friday for ten weeks has been suspended for talks.

The unions should not back down in their fight against Briggs Marine bosses.

EDUCATION

Support UCU Left in union elections

by SADIE ROBINSON

ELECTIONS ARE underway in the UCU union, where UCU Left candidate Jo McNeill is challenging Sally Hunt to become the union's next general secretary.

Jo told Socialist Worker her campaign is going "really well" with lots of members getting in touch.

Jo said workers have contacted her to raise worries about workload, casualisation and the higher education bill.

Others are concerned about how the union will defend European Union



Left candidate Jo McNeill

workers in the wake of the Brexit vote.

Other UCU Left candidates include Carlo Morelli for vice president, Mandy Brown and Richard McEwan for UK-elected members FE and Carlo Morelli, Marion Hersh, Phoebe Moore and Ioanna Ioannou for UK-elected members HE.

Candidates want an alternative leadership that will fight Tory attacks and reinvigorate resistance.

● The election runs until 1 March. For Jo's campaign go to jo4ucugensec.wordpress.com and for UCU Left materials go to uculeft.org.uk

FOOD WORKERS

Another scalp at Harrods?

WORKERS AT the posh Harrods department store celebrated another victory in the wake of their successful campaign to retain their tips.

Executive chef Christian Knerr, who had oversight of all the menus at the store's 28 restaurants, has resigned.

People working at the store spoke to Socialist Worker. One said, "It's got to be something to do with the service charge campaign."

And people are joining the United Voices of the World union, which was behind the campaign.



"More and more people are joining every week," said one union member.
"People now know that we are stronger together."
Alistair Farrow

LONDON UNDERGROUND



On the picket line during the last Tube strike at Brixton

More Tube jobs but fight for better staffing goes on

LONDON TUBE workers' unions RMT and TSSA suspended two planned strikes of station staff set for this week.

The action was pulled after bosses gave a commitment to reinstate 533 of the 933—almost 60 percent—of the jobs that were slashed in the past few years.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash called it a "tremendous victory" but the union "remains eternally vigilant".

TSSA said the union

was still "in dispute with London Underground and our overtime ban is still in place."

One RMT rep told Socialist Worker, "In a heated discussion, a third of reps were against suspending and argued that escalating action had the potential to win more of the jobs back."

The agreement will reopen control rooms and guarantee promotion of lower grade staff into higher safety critical grades but the rep said that the fight is not over. Raymie Kiernan

ROUND-UP

TEACHERS AT Whitehaven Academy in Cumbria struck on Wednesday of last week. The NASUWT union called off a strike that was due to take place on Thursday.

Workers were on strike over conditions at the school.

The union said that Bright Tribe, the trust running the academy, hasn't made enough investment.

SCHOOL governors in West Sussex could "strike" over Tory education funding cuts. The action could include refusing to sign off budgets.

Funding cuts mean schools will lose £3 billion a year in real terms until 2020. The governors are

supporting head teachers who say cuts may mean shorter school hours, merged classes or cutting teachers.

In a letter to MPs, governors spoke of the need to take "direct action" over funding cuts that put schools in an "impossible financial situation".

LECTURERS AT Manchester Metropolitan University could strike over bosses' plan to close its Crewe campus.

The UCU union has said it could ballot workers for strikes if the dispute over its closure isn't resolved.

UCU members have voted for a motion to ballot for strikes if bosses threaten job cuts.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Teaching assistants step up fight against pay cut

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

SOME 1,250 Derby teaching assistants (TAs) escalated their dispute with their Labour-run city council this week.

The Unison union members staged three full-day strikes against a 25 percent pay cut from Monday.

The TAs were out for two days last week—and Derby branch secretary Nicole Berrisford told Socialist Worker they could “go all-out” after half term.

This threat to Labour council leader Ranjit Banwait, who describes himself as “on the left of the party”, comes after Jeremy Corbyn backed the TAs.

Needs

The local branch of Labour left group Momentum also came out on their side.

TA Joanne works at Ivy House special needs school. A £350 a month pay cut has added ten years onto her mortgage—she says she will now be at least 60 before it is paid off.

Joanne told Socialist Worker, “I’ve voted Labour all my life but I never will again. This is not about fairness or equality—it’s about cost-cutting.”

Derby Labour’s cut has left



UNISON UNION members on strike last week

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

workers in a terrible financial position.

Some TAs have had to sell their homes, while others have cancelled their pension as they can no longer afford to pay into it.

“I do 37 hours a week but

I am still considered part time,” explained Joanne. “The £6,000 a year I’m losing works out at £162,000 over the next 27 years I’ve got left.

“I can’t retire until I am 67 and I’m going to have a part time pension.”

The dispute is almost a carbon copy of the struggle of Durham TAs. Those workers are becoming increasingly frustrated with the slow pace of talks with their Labour council.

They have organised a

week of protests during half term and called a national solidarity protest for Saturday 25 March.

Go to **Unison—Derby City Branch and Durham Teaching Assistants Value Us** on Facebook

FRACKING

Protests force Ineos bosses to frack off

by JAMES EADEN

HUNDREDS OF people took to the streets of Marsh Lane, a small village outside Eckington in Derbyshire, last Tuesday. They delivered a powerful message to fracking bosses of petrochemical giant Ineos.

The Tories have granted Ineos the licences to test for fracking sites across large areas of South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Marsh Lane is its first planned test site.

Ineos had come to the village with a “community information” exhibition to sell the idea of fracking.

Local campaigners set up their own “alternative” anti-fracking exhibition in



Activists prepare to march on the bosses' HQ

the local community centre.

It acted as a base for two marches that surrounded Ineos’ venue with hundreds of chanting protesters.

The Ineos bosses had to scurry off ashen faced and demoralised through crowds.

Ineos still needs to get planning permission from Derbyshire County Council.

Campaigners plan another march on 25 February.

A building firm in Bolton pulled out of supplying Cuadrilla’s fracking site at Preston New Road near Blackpool this week. It came as a result of Bolton Against Fracking activists slow walking in front of vans.

WORKERS AT four Picturehouse cinema sites in London celebrated a resounding vote for industrial action last Sunday.

The members of the Bectu section of the Prospect union plan to walk out from 2pm this Saturday.

It will affect the Ritzy in Brixton, south London, Hackney Picturehouse in east London, Crouch End Picturehouse in north London and Picturehouse Central.

Workers released a statement on Sunday.

“On the weekend of the Bafta awards, where the best talent in the industry is celebrated, we the workers will stand up to be valued and appreciated,” it said.

Workers were forced to rebalance after management launched a legal challenge.



On strike last year

But one union rep told Socialist Worker that this allowed the Crouch End branch to join the dispute.

Go to **A Living Wage for Ritzy Staff** and **A Living Wage for Hackney Picturehouse Staff** for more information on the dispute

LAMBETH

Protest at libraries into gyms plan

LIBRARY campaigners in Lambeth were set to protest ahead of a council planning application meeting this Tuesday.

They are fighting to save the Carnegie Library in the south London borough.

Their Labour-run council plans to spend £4 million on turning two libraries, which it closed last April, into gyms.

It has recommended that planning permission for Carnegie Library is granted.

Local campaigners are calling on Labour “to refuse planning permission to GLL, the council’s leisure centre provider, to transform our once thriving and much-loved library into a pay-to-use gym”.

More than 300 objections have been submitted against the plans.

Go to **Save Our Libraries - Lambeth** on Facebook for more information

POSTAL WORKERS

A strongly worded letter on cuts

THE CWU postal workers’ union has said it is “relaunching” its campaign against Tory plans to close and privatise Post Offices.

The CWU has fought plans to outsource Crown Post Offices.

Workers struck several times against the plans last year.

A letter to CWU branches said they should launch “local community campaigns” but it does not mention further strikes.

ANTHONY GRAINGER

Inquiry into police killing

THE PUBLIC inquiry into the death of Anthony Grainger continues this week.

A firearms officer from Greater Manchester Police shot Anthony dead in Culcheth, Cheshire, on 3 March 2012.

The court has been sitting in closed session for the past two weeks for police to give secret evidence.

Anthony’s family were excluded from the closed session. Open sessions will resume on Wednesday of this week.

Eleanor Claxton-Mayer

PAPERING OVER HOUSING CRACK

by ALISTAIR FARROW

THE TORIES' Housing White Paper released this week marks a shift away from the pretence that everyone can buy their own home.

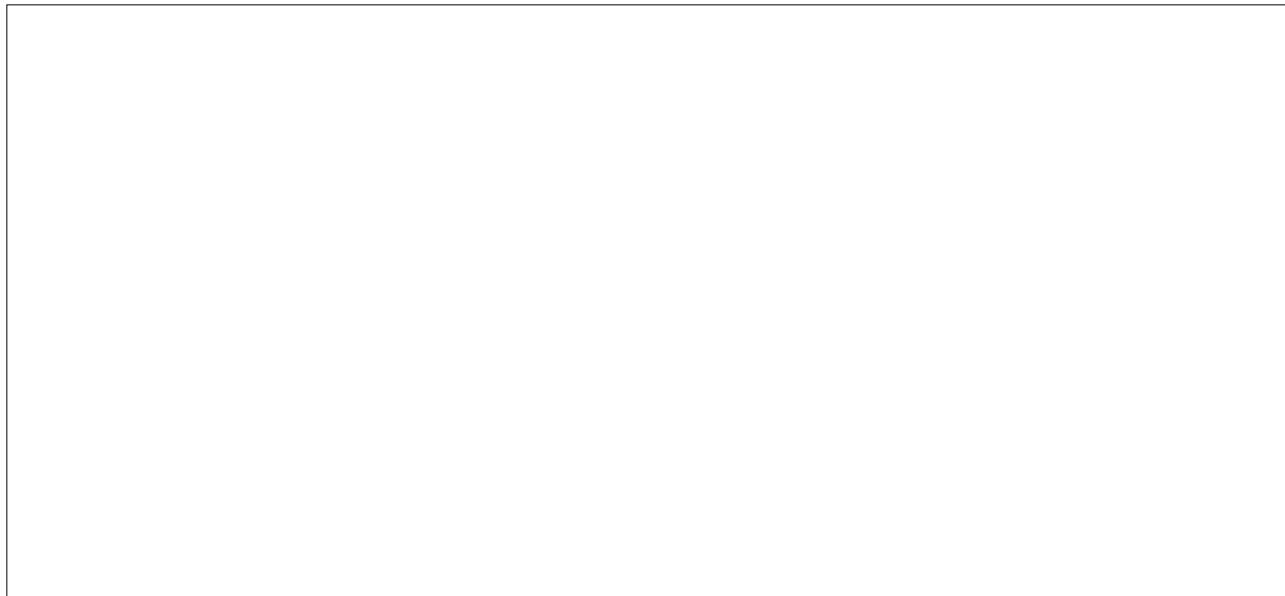
That myth of the "property owning democracy" was one of the central elements of Margaret Thatcher's Tory government from 1979 to 1990.

But now communities minister Sajid Javid talks of the "broken housing market" and says there needs to be wider "choice" including more homes for rent.

In part the shift is an attempt to deal with growing anger over the soaring cost of homes and the lack of decent affordable homes to rent.

The last census showed that in England the proportion of homes owned with a mortgage had dropped sharply.

Housing charity Shelter said this was a "historic shift which reflects the growing trend in young people and families who are unable to find a stable, affordable



THERE WILL BE LESS OF THE HOUSING WE NEED WITH THE TORIES' NEW WHITE PAPER

home". A government spokesperson would not comment when asked if the White Paper backtracks on government targets to build a million houses by 2020.

But even if the target is not to be scrapped, the market can't achieve it.

There's only been one year since 1945 when more

than 200,000 new homes were built without at least a third of them being built by councils.

That was in 1988—a time of an unsustainable mortgage boom.

The legislation will change the target to "net additional dwellings"—which includes reclaimed abandoned homes.

Disgracefully, it makes no provision for funding mass council house building.

Yet council housing has to be central to any solution to the housing crisis.

A key part of the White Paper is centralised calculations about housing needs. Councils will have to produce five-year plans.

The Tories have previously shied away from this because it sets the parameters for failure.

The White Paper also says that councils should ensure land is used efficiently by building high-density housing.

But it doesn't say how they are to do this.

In part the Tories' shift towards the private rental market reflects the fact that developers have found that sector more profitable than building houses to sell.

Last year private rental overtook the social rented sector for the first time since records began.

The White Paper outlines plans to alter planning regulations to allow developers to build units for "affordable" private rents.

But these can mean as much as 80 percent of market rents—unaffordable for most people.

"The government is trialing the White Paper as a break from key parts of David Cameron's 2016 Housing Act," said Eileen Short, chair of Defend Council Housing.

"They are bending under pressure and we are determined to push on for a new generation of council housing."

The most effective, cheapest, way of building housing is through a mass council house building campaign.

For more on campaigning against the Housing Act go to axethehousingact.org.uk

SOCIAL CARE

Care crisis 'not our problem' minister tells families after slashing funding

AFTER FUELING a crisis in social care by slashing billions in funding, the Tories have said children should be responsible for looking after their elderly parents.

Some 1.2 million people do not get the care they need, according to Age UK—up by 48 percent since 2010. And some 380 care home businesses have collapsed since 2010.

Meanwhile local councils' social care budgets have been slashed by up to 50 percent. And 300,000 fewer people receive council-funded help than four years ago.

Yet junior Tory health



Hundreds of care home businesses have collapsed

minister David Mowat's solution is to get families to absorb the cost of care rather than fund services.

He told MPs last week that "nobody ever questions the fact that we look after our children" so the same should apply to "how we look after our own parents".

It is an insult to suggest that people are uncaring about older people.

It ignores the caring responsibilities taken on by an estimated 6.5 million people in Britain. Of these, 1.4 million provide around 50 hours of unpaid care a week.

It also ignores the

often complex needs of older people.

It comes as many of the biggest councils are proposing to hike council tax by a maximum of 4.99 percent to stem the social care crisis.

Surrey's Tory council is even considering a referendum to introduce a 15 percent rise.

The Local Government Association (LGA) has estimated that there will be a £2.6 billion funding shortfall in social care by 2020.

It argued that the Tories' "continued underfunding of social care is making it impossible for local

authorities to fulfil their legal duties under the Care Act".

The LGA added that if the government "does not urgently announce any new money for social care, then ministers need to be 'honest and upfront' with the public about the limitations of the care and support they can provide.

"This could mean only managing to meet basic needs such as helping people get out of bed in the morning rather than enabling our loved ones to enjoy fulfilling, independent lives at home in the community."

Raymie Kiernan